THE "SENSATIONAL STORY" OF
MRS. ALEX. MCVEIGH MILLER

By Kathleen Kennedy

Mrs. Alex. McVeigh Miller was the Danielle Steele of her age. Starting in the late 1800s, Miller wrote dime novels that thrilled a generation of readers with their tales of intrigue and love. Featuring guileless young maidens, chivalrous gentlemen, dastardly villains and ironic twists of fate, all but one of her eighty novels ended happily with the hero and heroine united in love. Mrs. Miller called her works "sensational" stories because of their fantastic plots. As improbable as her tales were, however, the author's own life was every bit as sensational. Her story is one of poverty followed by wealth and fame, culminating with, as she herself said, "so many unhappy endings."

Born on April 30, 1850, at Hanover Junction (now Doswell), Virginia, Miller was christened Mittie Francis Clarke Point, a "mouth-filling" name that honored her mother's two best friends. A precocious child, Mittie showed literary talent early in life. She received her initial education at home, where knowledge was highly valued, and subsequently at a school run by her Aunt Margaret in Portsmouth, Virginia. But with the eruption of the Civil War in 1861, her studies ceased.

The war left no time for learning philosophy and literature. Daily survival required the combined efforts of every member of Mittie's family, then living in Richmond. In a city plundered by hungry Confederate soldiers and besieged by attacking Union troops, just gathering food was a challenge. Potatoes, black-eyed peas and cabbage were usually available, but on one occasion, after another band of starving soldiers raided their larder, the family had nothing left but some flour, which they made into biscuits and "ate thankfully."

When the war ended, life in Richmond slowly returned to normal and Mittie resumed her education at the Richmond Female Institute (later known as Richmond Woman's College). A bright and dedicated student, her first love was poetry, especially that of Byron and Tennyson. She wrote several poems that were well received by her teachers and classmates during this time, including a graduation "essay..."
in poetic form" titled "Drifted Fancies." The poem was written in what she described as a "deadly serious vein...with twenty-eight elaborately-rhymed stanzas of musings on life, death and nature." Though these subjects seem weighty for an eighteen-year-old's pen, the piece was written with Mittie's usual flair:

"A silvery cloud o'er the young moon crept,
    Like a misty veil o'er a bride that slept.
The glitt'ring rays fell from on high,
    Like blazing pearls from a midnight sky,
And down to the dim horizon swept...
...A charm was over that April sky,
    That bent above in the days gone by,
And a witchery dwelt in faint perfume
    Of the jasmine stars with their snowy bloom,
But their memory only wakes a sigh."

Despite her obvious talents, when Mittie was told by one of her teachers that she might be successful at a literary career, she didn't take the suggestion seriously. Though she wrote a number of stories for a Richmond magazine called The Old Dominion, contributors to the publication received no pay and the journal failed after a few years.

Mittie continued writing stories and poems for local publications, occasionally signing her works "Evangeline St. Evers," a pseudonym she concocted because she "cordially detested" her own "drab" name. But when the editors of such magazines as The Temperance Advocate, for whom she wrote a number of stories, suggested that the pen name was a bit too florid, she resigned herself to being "Mittie F.C. Point."

While her stories and poems were published with increasing frequency in Richmond, Mittie earned little for her literary efforts. When she met and fell in love with a "handsome and magnetic" Confederate veteran named Thomas Jefferson Davis, she happily abandoned her writing avocation and embarked on a life as a wife and mother.

Ten years older than Mittie, Mr. Davis was well liked by the Point family, who nevertheless opposed the couple's
marrige, due to the fact that Davis suffered from tuberculosis contracted during the Civil War. Mittie's mother feared her daughter's marriage would end in tragedy, but Tom Davis's "dark eyes, dark hair and companionable ways" won Mittie's heart. The couple lived near Mittie's family in Richmond until Tom was offered employment as a bookbinder in the Government Printing Office in Washington, D.C. It was in the nation's capital that their daughter Pearl was born.

All was well with the young family for a while, and Mittie took up writing again, with her husband's encouragement. Her first ambitious effort was a 500-page novel, Rosamund, written "just for fun" at Tom's suggestion. When Mittie saw an advertisement in the New York Weekly soliciting novels for serial publication, she decided to submit the work for consideration. She found her efforts rewarded by a check for $100.00, a sizable sum at the time. Mittie spent the money immediately on a suite of bedroom furniture, convinced that her literary career had begun in earnest.

The lucrative sale of Rosamund, however, did not usher in a successful literary career. It was instead a precursor of tragedy. Shortly after the sale of that novel, the tuberculosis that had plagued Tom Davis since the Civil War resurfaced, and after battling the disease for several months, he died. Mittie's marriage had lasted less than two years and ended in disaster, but her sorrows were far from over. Within a month of her husband's death, Mittie's infant daughter died, leaving her bereft of both husband and child.

Though it seemed she had little left to live for, necessity forced Mittie to find some way of making a living. Unwilling to return to her father's house, where she felt she would be a burden, she remained in Washington. The steadiest work she found was writing summaries of Congressional sessions for various newspapers at $5.00 each. Barely able to survive on her earnings, Mittie found solace writing poetry in her spare time. Her efforts yielded a piece she later considered her best poem, "Beside a Grave:"

"Did you speak to me, dearest?
A passionate, yearning fancy whispers,
It may be so.
that you may have pierced the shadows that mantle
the Spirit-Land,
And reach through my life's great darkness a
vaguely comforting hand
Ah, no 'twas the breath of summer went whispering
past my cheek;
So like the voice of the human, it seemed I
heard you speak;
And the sense of a presence touched me, myself and
yet not I,
As though my lost twin-spirit had softly
floated by...."

Still grieving for her husband and daughter, and struggling to earn a living, Mittie's health suffered. Her poetry increasingly reflected the fatigue and misery of her solitary existence: "I have been so tired—so tired, many times my heart has beat wildly, like a frightened child's, lost amid the busy street." Her exhaustion climaxed in a physical breakdown that soon drove her to return to her father's house in Richmond. There Mittie experienced a "nervous reaction" to all she'd endured after the deaths of her husband and child, and several months passed before she recovered her physical and mental health.

As Mittie's strength slowly improved in Richmond, she eventually felt compelled to begin writing again. The Temperance Advocate still needed authors and soon Mittie was filling its pages with romantic yarns about charming young maidens and handsome gentlemen struggling to meet the challenges of a cruel world. Predictably, the "villain" in these stories was alcohol. Though The Temperance Advocate sold fairly well, its editor abandoned it for a better opportunity, and Mittie was asked to take over as editor of the journal. She refused, even though the position offered a small salary, because she had recently taken a trip to West Virginia, where she had met Alexander McVeigh Miller and had fallen in love.

Though she'd resisted offers of marriage from several men in Richmond, Mittie happily became Mrs. Alexander McVeigh Miller in May of 1878. The couple moved to the Hawk's Nest area of Fayette County, West Virginia, in the heart of the mountains that were home to Alex Miller.

Mittie found life in "one of the wildest spots in West Virginia," surrounded by the rugged mountain scenery and "geological marvels" of the New River canyon, to be a far cry from the life she'd led in Richmond. Living in a tiny cabin on a bank near the river, she found herself burdened with household chores to which she was completely unaccustomed and which she never learned to enjoy. She
happily gave up many of these duties when Alex decided the two should move back to his family’s homestead in Nicholas County.

The Miller family was a large one and the home they occupied was already crowded when Mittie and Alex moved in. Though the Millers considered their daughter-in-law to be a “city butterfly” with few domestic talents, they soon found that Mittie was an excellent seamstress, and the clothes she made for the family were a welcome contribution to the household.

The Miller farm was located some eighteen miles from the nearest rail station, and Mittie quickly found the isolation depressing. With Alex frequently “gone to town,” leaving her alone with her husband’s family, she longed for a home of her own. She decided to try writing again, both to earn money and as a distraction from the loneliness she often felt. Her efforts yielded poetry, including an ode to the beauty of Hawk’s Nest, which was published in the Greenbrier Independent newspaper, and the beginnings of a novel she called Only a Mountain Girl.

After discovering that they were about to become parents, Mittie and Alex began building their own home on ten acres given them by the Miller family. But construction halted when Alex’s meager savings from his work as a country school master were exhausted, leaving carpenter bills unpaid. Finding herself in dire need of money once again, Mittie put on her “thinking cap with a sort of desperation,” and determined to pull herself out of that hole. “I did pull myself and the others out,” she later recalled, “And I did it with The Bride of the Tomb.”

In her unpublished autobiography, Mittie described her invention of the “sensational” style for which she would soon become well known:

I simply had an urgent need for money and made the most of the resources at my command to obtain it. I had previously scorned writing for the sensational weekly story papers, published in New York. I had aimed higher, but now I was ready to commit almost any literary heresy.

Immersing herself in the romantic tales appearing in weekly story papers like the Fireside Companion and Family Story Paper, Mittie committed herself to writing the most sensational story ever written. The result of her efforts, The Bride of the Tomb, proved to be not only her first, but also one of her best-selling novels. “A tensely melodramatic story...that carried the reader breathlessly along,” the story was published in the Family Story Paper for $20.00 per installment, with each installment equaling
about 30 handwritten pages. Receiving the first $20.00 in cash, Mittie financed the completion of her much-desired home, and spent the remaining payments more quickly than she'd imagined possible.

The overwhelming success of Mittie's "sensational" story gave her a "stimulus to invention" that rapidly led to a string of similar novels, including *Queenie's Terrible Secret*, *All for Love*, *A Crushed Lily*, *The Fatal Kiss*, *A Married Flirt*, *Pretty Madcap Lucy*, *The Strength of Love*, and *The Senator's Bride*. As her writing career became increasingly lucrative, Mittie devoted herself to producing the stories that eventually brought her undreamed of wealth and fame.

As the money from Mittie's writing flowed in, Alex Miller found himself increasingly bored with life as a country school master. Equally uninspired by the exhausting work of farm life, he was at a loss for something to do. The couple moved to Alderson, where Mittie offered to finance Alex in the mercantile trade, but he "refused to be tied to any business that called for routine work." So it was decided that he would look after their home and invest the considerable sums that the New York story papers were now paying for Mittie's romance novels.

Describing this period as one of the "healthiest, most successful, and...most happy" chapters of her life, Mittie's joy seemed complete. From the despair and illness after the deaths of her first husband and child, she had now entered into a life of comfort and fulfillment. Her marriage to Alex Miller resulted in the birth of three healthy children, and the money from her writing enabled her to build an elegant estate in Alderson and to give her husband the financial freedom to do as he pleased. Now a wealthy country squire, Alex finally found his calling in politics, winning election to the West Virginia State Senate for eight terms.

The Millers rode this wave of success in high style, taking trips to such far-flung places as Cuba, and socializing with the rich and famous from the Roosevelts to Nellie Sartoris, the daughter of Ulysses S. Grant. Occasionally spending the winter in Washington, D.C., Mittie joined a writer's group that included such notables as Edward Eggleston, the author of *The Hoosier Schoolmaster*, and Frances Hodgson Burnett, who wrote such classics as *The Secret Garden* and *Little Lord Fauntleroy*.

Mittie's stories remained popular with the reading public, and the money kept pouring in. Whereas she had been thrilled to receive $220 for *The Bride of the Tomb*, her works now commanded as much as $1,200 per story. Writing an average of five novels per year, her annual salary was an incredible $6,000, and the name of Mrs. Alex McVeigh Miller, which she used for all eighty of her novels, became one of the best-known names in the Ameri-
According to Mittie, there existed “a notorious flaw in the Morgantown water system at that time and those who drank unboiled water...were also liable to drink typhoid fever germs.” Though he’d been warned against it, McVeigh drank unboiled water while staying at his old fraternity house, and fell violently ill with typhoid fever. After battling the disease for several weeks, he died on March 15, 1903. Lawrence fell ill with the same infection just three months later, and after hovering between life and death for more than a month, he made a full recovery.

After McVeigh’s death and Lawrence’s protracted illness, the Miller family never regained their peace and happiness. Mittie returned to The Cedars to finish her latest novel and Alex resumed his Senate duties in Charleston, but each struggled to find meaning in the old routines. Shaken by the death of his oldest son, Alex “reverted to the dissipation...upon which he had embarked before...perhaps to drown grief and regret,” while Mittie experienced what she described as a “shattered mental and physical state” that endured for many months.

For more than two years she wrote nothing, keeping herself hidden away at The Cedars. It seemed nothing could assuage her grief until she met a woman whose spiritual guidance changed her life. A resident of Huntington, Mrs. Elizabeth Blake was a spiritual medium whose reputation had spread throughout the southern part of the state. Mrs. Miller described her as a “plain country woman who lived with her husband in very modest circumstances...but who possessed unusual psychic gifts.” According to Mittie, “It was this woman who brought me my first real comfort after my son’s death.” Mrs. Elizabeth Blake became a valued friend of the Miller family and was a frequent houseguest at The Cedars.

With the help of her spiritual guide and a series of “psychic communications,” presumably with McVeigh, Mittie began to take command of her life again. She found her first happiness in years in undertaking a European tour with her daughter Irene. But this respite from melancholy came to an end when Mittie discovered that a “tribe of predatory immoral women” had been pursuing her husband, who was by then a wealthy middle-aged man. “And he did not resist.”

When the Millers were divorced in 1908, Mittie ended up with what she felt was the worst of the bargain. She retained ownership of The Cedars, but could no longer afford to live at the estate. Though she’d earned more than $100,000 during her career, much of what she’d saved had been spent on expensive court battles leading up to her divorce. A further large sum had been lost in speculative business ventures in which Alex had invested while managing Mittie’s earnings.

Pinched by poverty again after so many years of plenty, Mittie moved to Boston to stay with her daughter Irene. She was welcomed cordially by her son-in-law, Ralph Chaineys, but was disturbed to find him prone to heavy drinking and violent mood swings. Mittie’s stay in the “citadel of Yankeedom” endured for eight years before Irene finally sued for divorce and mother and daughter returned to The Cedars in 1918.

Mittie and Irene struggled to survive at The Cedars for a year before concluding that the estate was too large and too expensive to maintain. Together the pair moved to Washington, D.C., where, at the age of 79, with her eyesight failing, Mittie agreed reluctantly to dictate her autobiography, which she titled, To Be Continued In Our Next:

For several years my daughter has begged me to write my autobiography, but I could not bring myself to do it. It was far easier for me to write of someone’s imaginary troubles and bring them to a happy ending, than to relate my own reminiscences, which contained so many unhappy endings.

Commenting on all she’d experienced in her life as a wife, mother and famous writer, Mrs. Miller concluded her memoirs by noting that, “The whys and wherefores of life and death are always with us and the words of sorrow and hope, written in my twenties in “Beside a Grave,” are as true now as they were then:

“Ah, me, it is a bitter life, it is a bitter world, We come and go like shadows, through time and distance whirled.

Well for us that Brighter Land, where wait our loved and dear,

May solve for us the mysteries that so perplex us here.”

Mrs. Alex. McVeigh Miller died on December 26, 1937 in St. Petersburg, Florida, where she spent her last years living with her daughter. According to her final wishes, she was buried in Alderson, where she had spent the happiest years of her life, and her unpublished autobiography and personal papers are held at the Greenbrier Historical Society in nearby Lewisburg.

Thanks to the generosity of the Greenbrier Historical Society, a copy of Mrs. Miller’s autobiography, from which the quotes in this article are taken, is now available to researchers at The West Virginia and Regional History Collection. The most complete record that exists of Mrs. Miller’s extraordinary life, To Be Continued In Our Next is rich in details of life in Greenbrier and Monroe counties at the turn of the century. In addition to Mrs. Miller’s autobiography, The West Virginia and Regional History Collection owns fifty-nine of Mrs. Miller’s eighty romance novels, including her first “sensational” story, The Bride of the Tomb.
John Cuthbert received the West Virginia Humanities Council’s highest honor.

By Monte Maxwell

John Cuthbert, winner of the West Virginia Humanities Council's 2001 Daugherty Award.


The distinction came when the West Virginia Humanities Council presented him with the Charles H. Daugherty Award in the Humanities, the council's highest honor. Cuthbert is the fifteenth West Virginian to receive the prestigious award.

Ken Sullivan, Executive Director of the Humanities Council, said the selection was based on Cuthbert's contributions to the state through his efforts at WVU to preserve West Virginia's past. "John is a one of a kind resource," Sullivan said. "I don't know of anyone more knowledgeable about West Virginia's art history."

While the Daugherty Award recognizes lifetime achievements, Sullivan credits a recent accomplishment for catching the attention of the council. He said Cuthbert earned their admiration with Early Art and Artists in West Virginia: An Introduction and Biographical Directory, a book penned by Cuthbert and published last fall by WVU Press. Sullivan applauds Cuthbert for introducing West Virginians and others to a bountiful heritage few know about. "I think he's surprised us with the depth of West Virginia art history," Sullivan said. "West Virginia has a rich history of folk art, but it also has a rich history in the fine arts."

Cuthbert came to WVU in 1979 as a musicologist with the responsibility of cataloging and transcribing the rich folk music holdings at the West Virginia and Regional History Collection. Over the past two decades, the job has changed and his commitment to the mission has continued to strengthen. Cuthbert maintains a high level of enthusiasm as he works to enhance the University Libraries’ West Virginia and Regional History Collection and research the history of items added to the collection. He said he’s grateful for the opportunities he’s had to study uplifting subjects and people who belie the cultural stereotypes that have so long plagued the state.

"I look forward to playing a continuing role in bringing about a reconsideration of what West Virginia culture really is," Cuthbert said. "To me, this award represents not only a recognition of progress made to this date but also a hearty dose of inspiration with which to forge ahead."
SELECTED ACCESSIONS LIST:

Biographies, photos, and sheet music of the Arbogast family of Enterprise, West Virginia. Included is sheet music of three hymns dated 1950 composed by P. W. Arbogast and others. There are four photographs (three mounted) ca. 1890-1910 of group portraits of the family as musicians with string and wind instruments. Most individuals are identified by annotations on the backs of the photos. Also, from an unknown publication, there are two photocopied pages of Arbogast biographies.

This photo of “Camp Sang” from the B&O Scrapbook bears the inscription “Look who’s here! A real cook and helpers.”

Eighteen photographs of U.S. Senator Robert C. Byrd dated 1977 or 1978 when he was U.S. Senate Majority Leader. Included are photos of Senator Byrd on Capitol Hill and playing the fiddle.

Two letters dated April 15, 1865 and April 25, 1865 written by Corporal John Service. The letters were sent to Norwich (presumably in Connecticut). In one letter he mentions that his regiment is the 18th, without specifying what arm (artillery, cavalry, infantry). At the time these letters were written, Service was stationed in Martinsburg, West Virginia. He eloquently describes in some detail how citizens and soldiers celebrated the end of the Civil War and mourned over the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln by performing a mock, commemorative funeral. In his first letter, he mentions the outward display of joy in Martinsburg over the end of the war. People celebrated with a parade which included a military review, illuminated their houses at night, and were visibly relieved that the constraints of wartime were over. He also mentions the strong Unionist sentiments of the population and that even some of the ex-Confederate soldiers were happy the war had ended.

Fifteen documents ranging from 1825 to 1863, relating to the Courtney Family of Monongalia County, mostly concerning land sales. Included also is the 1835 will of John H. Courtney and an 1863 five-page letter from Iowa expressing anti-war and anti-emancipation sentiment during the American Civil War.
Records of Alpha Phi State of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society, an organization for promoting the personal and professional growth of women educators. Included are constitutions, directories, convention programs, newsletters, and photographs.

Ambrotype of Daniel D.T. Farnsworth (1819-1892) and William Gay Brown (1800-1884), both prominent West Virginia politicians. The reverse side bears a political advertisement stating “People’s Ticket; For Congress, Wm. G. Brown. Senate, Dan. D.T. Farnsworth.” The ambrotype is 2 3/4” x 3 1/4” with ornate, somewhat corroded, copper-toned preserver and mat. The case is 3 1/4” x 3 3/4” with embossed paper over wood.

Records collected by Robert Fonner regarding Tyler County, West Virginia, and also the Civil War. The Tyler County records include over 60 appointments and commissions for county officeholders, such as justices of the peace and sheriffs. These documents are dated from 1815 to the 1860s and bear the seal of Virginia and the signature of the Governor. Petitions dated 1845, 1848, and 1850 call for the creation of a new county, to be called Pleasant, from the existing counties of Tyler, Wood, and Ritchie. Pleasant County was formed in 1851. The Civil War papers include three letters, one short note, a short supply list, a discharge, and three pensions (1875-79). Two of the letters are written by George Livingston, a Union soldier from West Virginia, who is possibly an engineer involved with pontoon bridges. The first letter was written from Wheeling in May, 1862. Livingston’s second letter, dated September 1862 from Georgetown, D.C., mentions satisfactory camp conditions, troop movements in Virginia and West Virginia, and fighting in the battles of Cedar Mountain and Second Bull Run. The clippings (1958-94) concern the history of Middlebourne, the county seat of Tyler County; Tyler County High School; and Marietta, Ohio.

Three ledgers of Henry Prickett (1803-1894) of Marion County, West Virginia, great-grandson of Captain Jacob Prickett Sr. (1722-1798), founder of Prickett’s Fort. The first ledger, over 250 pages dated 1825 to 1844, records technical information such as tables of measure for such things as currency, land, cloth, and weights. This ledger also records transactions of his tanning business. His second ledger, dating from 1845 to the 1870s, is about 300 pages, and records business transactions and personal and community events including births, weather, and visits by relatives. Prickett’s third ledger, approximately 300 pages for the years 1880 to 1886, records business transactions and personal activities (including cutting grass, stacking hay, purchase of goods such as nails, molasses, wheat, and eggs.) The ledger of the Finch’s Run Sunday School, containing entries scattered from 1850 to 1874, includes maxims, essays, financial records, and three hymns in manuscript. The 1879 book of minutes of the Centerville Literary Society, Marion County, is 40 pages in length.

Twenty photographs of Monongalia County Circuit Court Judges, including Dille (1863-74), Lewis (1873-78), Fleming (1878-1888), Hagans (1889-1900), Mason (1900-12), Sturgis (1913-20), Lazzelle (1921-28), Wilson (1937-44), Baker (1945-52), Eddy (1953-67), Kiger (1969-76), and DePond (1977-85). The pictures of Lewis and DePond are photographs of oil portraits, and the pictures of Hagans, Mason, Sturgis, and Lazzelle are original photographic prints.

Transcriptions of the papers of the Price Family dating from 1805 to 1917, with an emphasis on approximately 1853 to 1875, primarily relating to William Price (1803-1881). Price was a Monongalia County resident who was a member of the Wheeling Convention and the state legislature from 1869 to 1873. The papers include correspondence and also financial and legal papers such as indentures, land records, and wills. Subjects mentioned among others are farming, slaves, health, and personal advice. There are several letters from relatives in Wales as well as some information on the genealogy of the Price family. Two 1862 letters from Michael Price describe Civil War experiences during the campaign to capture Forts Henry and Donelson. Notable William Price correspondence discusses rivalries in the West Virginia legislature as well as state constitutional and political issues of 1872 and 1873. Of special interest are comments regarding the proposed inclusion of several Virginia counties in the Shenandoah Valley and Blue Ridge in the state of West Virginia. Price asserts his opinion that the intent of this proposal is to flood the state with voters who are former rebels and who will exert pressure to place the new state under the control of the Virginia aristocracy.


Transcription of a genealogy journal of southwestern Pennsylvania families compiled by Josiah V. Thompson (1854-1933), a coal baron and banker whose country estate in 1910 was Friendship Hill in Point Marion, Pennsylvania. Thompson recorded information he transcribed from family Bibles and other sources dating from the 1700s to the 1900s into a journal he kept from 1904 through 1928.


A 47-page genealogy of the Wadsworth Family from 1750 to 1992 and a 15-page genealogy of the related McClung Family from 1805 to 1974. Each genealogy includes an extensive name index. Included is a photo of the tombstone of Robert Wadsworth (1750-1823) who was an American Revolutionary War veteran serving as a private from Virginia in the unit assigned as bodyguards to Gen. George Washington.


Ten reels of 16 mm. motion picture footage shot in rural Preston County in 1929 and labeled as follows: Sale (6”); Snow, March 11, 1931 (3”); Pig Sale and Farm (2 1/2”); Snow Farm, April 28, 1929 (3 1/2”); T. A. Park Reunion (3 1/2”); Rodeo, Parade (4 1/2”); Storm Wind (4 3/4”). There are two reels, each 1 1/2” in diameter, and three fragments (10”, 10”, and 20” in length) without description. Also included is a 35 mm film strip of several frames advertising the “Mercury 8” automobile from the 1940s.


State and local chapter records of the WV Federation of Business & Professional Women’s Clubs including newsletters, reports, scrapbooks, photos, clippings, and programs from 1973 to 2000. The local chapter records are those for Buckhannon, Clarksburg, Elkins, Fairmont, Franklin, Grafton, Hinton, Lewisburg, Morgantown, Oak Hill, Parkersburg, Philippi, West Union, and Weirton.


Archives and records of the West Virginia Historical Education Foundation, an organization devoted to the pro-
duction and publication of scholarly and educational books about West Virginia history. Included are minutes, correspondence, sound recordings, and subject files about the organization’s history, operations and products. Also included are numerous books and assorted other publications about West Virginia, many of which are textbooks published by or with the assistance of the Foundation.


Records of land grants made by the Secretary of the Colony of Virginia from 1748 to 1778, by the Virginia Land Office of the Commonwealth of Virginia from 1779 until 1863, and by the State of West Virginia from its formation until 1912. These records were held by the Office of the West Virginia State Auditor at the time the *Sims Index to Land Grants in West Virginia* was published by State Auditor Edgar B. Sims in 1952. The land grants were microfilmed by the Genealogical Society of Utah and are now held by the West Virginia State Archives.


Motion picture footage (five reels, each ca. 5” in diameter; ca. 1954-58), 35mm slides (126 images; ca. 1958-61), and 120mm negatives (ca. 110 images; ca. 1960-61) documenting steam trains and lumbering in West Virginia and surrounding regions. Subjects of motion pictures include: Cass, Buffalo Creek and Gauley, Norfolk and Western, Preston, Middle Fork, and Pittsburgh railroads. Subjects of slides include: Preston, Middle Fork, Beech Mountain, Norfolk and Western, and Buffalo Creek and Gauley railroads; William Ritter Lumber Co.; Swandale. Subjects of negatives include: West Virginia Midland Railroad, William Ritter Lumber Co., Edy Thomas Lumber Co., Cass Railroad, and Georgia Pacific Railroad.

**West Virginia University, Oglebay Hall. Blueprints, ca. 1916-17. 2 items. Transfer, 2001. A&M 5062.**

Two 18” x 32” architectural drawings, dated 1916 and 1917, of Oglebay Hall on the downtown campus of West Virginia University. The drawings are a “Foundation and Basement Plan” scaled 1/8 inch equal to one foot and a “Block Plan” scaled 1/16 inch to one foot. Paul A. Davis of Philadelphia is the architect. Oglebay Hall was completed in 1918.

**Shay Locomotive haul logs for the Elk River Coal and Lumber Company, ca. 1955.**


Photocopy facsimile of a scrapbook documenting the family of William E. Arnett, Sr. (1866-1950), a lifelong resident of Monongalia County, West Virginia. He was a partner in the wholesale feed business, Kinkaid and Arnett. He served as City Recorder for Morgantown, member of the City Council, President of the County Court, and a member of the Board of Education. Arnett was also active as a board member of the Wesley Methodist Church in Morgantown.
Included are a manuscript narrative history of the Arnett family and a family tree. Photographs are mostly candid group shots, but include a few formal portraits of individuals and the Arnett family. Family events are recorded in letters from Arnett to his children, while his business and political life are reported in newspaper clippings. Wesley Methodist Church documents include programs, bulletins, and newsletters mentioning Arnett and his wife, Iva, programs for the fiftieth anniversary of the church, and two photographs of the building's exterior.


Records of WWVU, a Morgantown television station, consisting of motion picture film and related sound footage (597 cans), video tapes (40 boxes), and slides for locally produced programming that documents the social, political, cultural, natural, and historic landscape of West Virginia. Included are the acclaimed documentary Forks of Cheat and "raw footage" of interviews with Swami Bhaktipada of New Vrindaban. The files of various producers are also part of the collection. WWVU later became WNPB, a station of West Virginia Public Broadcasting. Some programs in the collection were produced by WNPB.


National Register of Historic Places Registration Form for Marshall/McNeil house of New Cumberland, West Virginia. The form includes the physical description, address, historical narrative, and bibliography, as well as three photographs of the house.

The Marshall-McNeil House is a two and one-half story Queen Anne style residence built in 1887 by West Virginia State Senator Oliver Marshall. He was the great grandson of the pioneer Aaron Marshall who came from Virginia east of the mountains.